

CORPS and COUNTRY



Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

(Left) Cpl. Robbie Blowers, a Provost Marshal's Office policeman, stands watch as a depot gate sentry. In his off time, Blowers is a country musician. (Below) In his barracks, Blowers practices "Kissing You Goodbye," a favorite song he wrote on a whim.



Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

DEPOT SPOTLIGHT

Military policeman with passion for music writes, plays, takes stage

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

His grandfather gave him a drum kit when he was 13, and he got his first guitar when he was 14. Eight years later, this military policeman writes his own music, sings in Karaoke competitions and is ready to record a demo album.

"I've always been into music," said Cpl. Robbie Blowers. "I've been singing ever since I was little kid, and once I got my guitar, I just went with it."

His mother Patty Blowers said, "I remember when he got that guitar. He picked up on it naturally. He taught himself to play."

Blowers' musical style is pure country – nothing

else. He listens to other stuff, but he said country music appeals to him more in several ways.

"First of all, I was raised country," said the Moravia, N.Y., native. "Second, country music is very wholesome. You almost never hear about country singers getting shot by gang members or going to drug rehab. Also, country music has a patriotic attitude that most genres don't have."

Blowers' mother recalled a time when his music helped the entire family bond.

"When he came home for Christmas, the whole family came because we hadn't seen him in while," said Patty. "We bought him a new guitar and he sat in the middle of the room and played song after song."

SEE **Country**, pg. 9

Let the Filing Begin

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center opens

BY 1ST LT. B. D. TRULOCK
Legal Assistance Officer

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center at the Legal Assistance Office in Building 12 opened Monday to service members and military family members. VITA is an Internal Revenue Service-sponsored program that provides free electronic tax-filing assistance.

The VITA Center allows eligible applicants to obtain tax assistance without paying a fee or buying personal tax software. The center operates from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. It is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

SEE **Tax**, pg. 2



Cpl. Aaron M. Grieger, tax assistant, helps Sgt. Hopton Whitter, former Recruiter School student, file his 2004 tax return at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center here. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron



ALL-MARINE SOCCER



Leathernecks from around the Corps team up to face other services

5



SINGLE MARINES RIDE BIG BEAR SLOPES

6



RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

Marine raised through foster-care system rose through training

8



Depot and Western Recruiting Region Chief of Staff Col. Thomas W. Spencer opens this year’s Volunteer Income Tax Center here, which started business Monday to help service members file taxes for free. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

Depot Marines shine as JAG set extras

BY MASTER SGT. JANICE M. HAGAR
Public Affairs Chief

Eleven depot Marines became true Hollywood Marines Tuesday when they served as extras in an upcoming episode of the television show “JAG” taped at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego.

Decked out in desert digital camouflage uniforms, the Marines were originally scheduled to shoot a scene as a unit boarding an aircraft bound for Iraq. But the script was changed several times, so the Marines were filmed in a variety of departing situations.

The day started early for the Marines and lasted well into the evening because they were asked to stay on as extras for additional scenes at a nightclub on base.

When filming started, the Marines were waiting on the flight line to board an aircraft as the series’ stars, Catherine Bell as Lt. Col. Sarah MacKenzie and David Andrews as Maj. Gen. Gordon Cresswell, exited an aircraft that had just landed. The show’s writers felt the scene was lacking emotion, so they decided to add women extras to serve as the Marines’ girlfriends and spouses saying goodbye to their Iraq-bound Marines.

The writers wanted to include the Marines in the nightclub scene, so some of the Marines grabbed civilian clothes while the wardrobe staff dressed others. During the club scene, the Marines teamed up with other extras, dancing and having a good time, which didn’t require much acting on the Marines’ parts. The day wrapped up around 9:30 p.m.

“The best part of the day for all of us was the support that everyone on the set – the staff, the actors and the crew – showed us because we are serving our country,” said Gunnery Sgt. Ron C. Medina, staff noncommissioned officer for Communications and Information Systems Department. “Everyone went out of the way to say thank you.

“During our time when we were waiting on the flight line, David Andrews came over to thank us for what we were doing and to tell us what it meant to him to be playing a Marine. He said it reminded him of everything that was going on in the world.”

The episode is supposed to be about a Judge Advocate General conference in San Diego. As they arrive, the characters are reminded about the hardships their fellow service members face as they see a group of Marines ready to head to Iraq.

“The director told me how everybody was speaking highly of our depot Marines on the set and how special it was to have the real Marines join them,” said Medina, a native of Los Angeles. “The crew wants everyone, especially the young men and women who are serving, to know they really care about the show they are producing and they want to give the audience an idea of what we really go through serving our country.”

It wasn’t a standard day for the depot Marines, and many had different views about their day as actors.

“Catherine Bell was very nice and down to earth, and she went out of her way to express her love for Marines,” said Medina.

“What I enjoyed most was the experience of seeing what goes on behind the scenes of making a show,” said Lance Cpl. Jesus C. Felix, a CISD Marine from Madera, Calif. “It seems like it would be fast and organized, but it takes a lot of times to film a scene. The scene where we were saying goodbye to our spouse extras had to be done like 12 times. It was also great to see the way actors are like behind the scenes.”

Some of the Marines discovered acting isn’t always as easy as people think

“We actually had to act. We weren’t prepared for that,” said Cpl. Kristian R. Carlson, a CISD Marine from Denver. “We were supposed to be serious and somber, but a lot of times to film a scene. The scene where we were saying goodbye to our spouse extras had to be done like 12 times. It was also great to see the way actors are like behind the scenes.”

“It was interesting to see the equipment and how much goes into filming and how much it must cost for a one-day shoot,” said Lance Cpl. Jared M. Kuester, administrative noncommissioned officer in the com-



Catherine Bell, who plays Lt. Col. Sarah MacKenzie on the TV series JAG, readies for the first scene filmed at Naval Air Station North Island. Eleven depot Marines served as extras for the episode. Photos by Gunnery Sgt. Ron C. Medina

Tax, from pg. 1

Volunteers have been through IRS-certified federal tax training, and every volunteer has received training designed by the California Franchise Tax Board. Additionally, the center offers two volunteers trained extensively by H&R Block over a period of several months – the same training received by most H&R Block employees. There are also several attorneys available for those who have specific tax law questions. These resources and extensive training give customers accurate tax-preparation services that might otherwise cost up to \$200.

The tax center operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Volunteers will provide tax-preparation assistance before electronically file returns. If returns indicate the right to a refund, customers will generally receive the refund in approximately two weeks when opting for direct deposits. The center is not able to assist customers with business or partnership income matters.

Tax center officials are reminding customers to bring all necessary tax documents to file successfully. Such documents and information include Social Security numbers of all dependents, W-2s, a 2003 tax return (if available), and tax powers of attorney for filing joint returns without a dependent present. For customers planning to itemize their deductions or declare child-care expenses, tax center officials will need evidence of those expenses.

For more information, please call (619) 524-8248.

manding general’s office. “I have zero dance skills, so the nightclub scene was a little intimidating.” The lone, Calif. native said he improvised and did the robot.

“It was cool to be representing the Marine Corps,” said Kuester. “A lot of people thought we were actors, but when they found out we were real Marines, they kept thanking us for what we do and for the good job we were doing on the set.”

Many of the Marines enjoyed their dining experience on the set. They feasted on swordfish, pork loin and pasta.

“It was like a gourmet roach coach,” said Felix. The Marines were impressed with everyone involved with the JAG production, and the feeling was mutual. “They were some of the most respectful and pleasant guys I’ve ever met, especially Gunnery Sgt. Medina,” said Lisa Brookes, second assistant director for JAG. “(The Marines) were extremely polite and extremely pleasant. They added a lot to the production and it was a pleasure to work with them.”

The episode is scheduled to air March 11. JAG airs at 9 p.m. Fridays on CBS.



Sgt. Ralph Hammond, Prior Service Recruiting administrative clerk (right) waits with other Marines on the North Island flight line before filming a scene depicting a unit deploying to Iraq.



Cpl. Ted Painter, Headquarters Company training Marine, dances with another extra in a nightclub scene.

Looking beyond titles

BY SGT. KIMBERLY LEONE
9th Marine Corps Recruiting District

“I’m not taking a special education teacher,” I told the recruiting station’s executive officer, tempted to throw myself on the floor in true 2-year-old fashion. “Her students can’t qualify to join the Corps.”

The executive officer showed true faith in my judgment, and agreed with my recommendation to not take Erin Reid, a teacher in West Aurora High School’s diversified special education/learning disabilities self-contained classroom, on Recruiting Station Chicago’s 2005 Educators Workshop.

Of course, I had no idea what any of her title meant. I saw special education teacher and immediately assumed she worked with a classroom full of mentally and physically challenged students who would not qualify to join the Corps. I envisioned years of Ritalin prescriptions. I pictured wheelchair ramps. I imagined 12th graders with first-grade reading skills. That’s what I explained to her when informing her that she and two of her colleagues could not attend the educators workshop. I told her as tactfully as possible “they were not considered gatekeepers to the Corps’ target market.”

And then I salted my words and grabbed a fork.

Turned out, Reid and her counterpart, Katie Corken, service 500 students and have a department staff of more than 40 educators. Each year educators from Reid’s department suggest military enlistment to some of their students and each year about 50 students from Reid’s department enlist in the military.

I assumed she worked with mentally and physically challenged students who would not qualify to join the Corps. I envisioned years of Ritalin prescriptions. I pictured wheelchair ramps. I imagined 12th graders with first-grade reading skills.

– *The writer on considering a special education teacher for a recruiting effort*

Plus, they had already made arrangements and started planning to present a seminar to the entire junior and senior classes – more than 1,600 students.

“With the information we will gain from the workshop, we will be better equipped to help all students understand the standards and requirements for the Corps,” Reid added. “The workshop will give us the knowledge to do this,” she said. “In addition, both Katie and I are starting our post-masters program to obtain our type-75 certificate in administration. In a short 18 months, the two of us will be qualified to be principals or deans and the knowledge gained from this educators workshop will follow us to whatever school in which we work. We have the potential of reaching thousands of students ...”

Reid wasn’t done. She went on to address my concerns about prescription drugs and physical handicaps. She explained her role as a transitions counselor and stated almost word for word the military’s policy on behavior modification medications like Ritalin. She provided statistics. She gave a plan for the use of information gained through the workshop. She was informed. She was passionate. She sold me.

Now I had to sell the executive officer – on something I just “unsold.”

In my decision to recommend not to take Reid and Corken on the workshop, I neglected several key elements of the workshop selection process. I did not involve the recruiters or SNCOIC responsible for West Aurora High School. Had I done so, I would have known the recruiters saw Reid and Corken as centers of influence and as assets

to recruiting within the school. I didn’t look beyond job titles and made some dangerous assumptions. I didn’t take the time to learn about Reid and Corken before briefing the XO, thus giving him very little good information on which to base his final decision. Out of a starting pool of 60 applications, fewer than 10 required follow-up phone calls for clarification of job titles or other details. It’s time well spent to ensure the highest quality roster of attendees.

Once all the former Marines and previous attendees have received their regret letters, been thanked for their interest and sent a coffee mug and an explanation of Defense Department policy, look into the reach of influence each of the remaining applicants may hold. Sometimes the best education doesn’t come from the most obvious source.

Thankfully, the RS Chicago executive officer let me back into his office to re-pitch for Reid and Corken. Both are attending the workshop and Reid is giving her presentation to a group of potential future workshop attendees.

I envision “trial lawyer” in her future. She summed up her passionate argument for her attendance of the workshop by stating, “It is very unfortunate that society places such a stigma on ‘special education.’ The overwhelming majority of our kids are capable, outstanding, responsible and passionate people. They are the people you are looking for.” Actually, Erin Reid and Katie Corken were the people I was looking for.

Leone is the marketing and public affairs specialist at Recruiting Station Chicago.

U.S. immigration and naturalization laws privilege service members

BY 1ST LT. B.D. TRULOCK
Legal Assistance Officer

A significant percentage of enlisted members of our armed forces are not U.S. citizens. Attaining U.S. citizenship, however, is the goal of almost every alien who joins the Marine Corps. U.S. citizenship provides rights and privileges that are not available to aliens. These benefits include the right to vote, the right hold certain public offices, and eligibility for all types of employment.

Marines that have not obtained U.S. citizenship may not be able to advance their careers beyond a certain stage or undertake certain assignments. Additionally, a significant number of Marines meet and marry foreign nationals while stationed overseas. If the Marine is a U.S. citizen, he or she is able to confer immigration benefits upon family members more quickly than lawful permanent residents.

Further discussion of this

topic requires an understanding of the differences between immigration and naturalization. Immigration is the process by which a person who is not a citizen receives legal permission to permanently reside in the United States. Proof of LPR status is the Form I-551 Permanent Resident Card, also known as a Green Card. Naturalization is the process by which a person who is not born as a citizen is subsequently conferred citizenship status. Naturalized citizens are entitled to all of the rights and privileges endowed to U.S. citizens, except the privilege to serve as President of the United States.

It is also important to understand the differences between nonimmigrant aliens and immigrants. A nonimmigrant is an alien who seeks temporary entry into the United States for a specific purpose. The alien must have a permanent residence abroad and qualify for the classification he seeks.

Some examples of common classifications include: visitors

for business and for pleasure or tourists, aliens in transit through the United States, students, and foreign government officials. Each classification imposes a time limit on the alien’s lawful presence in the United States.

An immigrant, or LPR, is a person who has legally immigrated and received authorization to reside permanently in the United States. Although not a U.S. citizen, an LPR has two important rights: to live and work in the United States and to apply for citizenship after a set number of years.

If you are a Marine who is not a U.S. citizen, now is an excellent time to begin the naturalization process. The president, through Executive Order 13269, reinstated the Armed Conflict exception to the normal naturalization procedures. The exception applies to any applicant who honorably serves on active duty during a designated period of armed conflict. The current period began on Sept. 11, 2001 and has not expired. The primary require-

ment is that the member must have enlisted or reenlisted in the U.S. or U.S. territories or aboard a U.S. vessel. LPR status is not required under this exception, and one day of service is sufficient. It is important to realize, however, that this is not a permanent exception and it will expire.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services offer a streamlined application process for military personnel that can significantly reduce wait times. All naturalization applications based upon qualifying military service are sent to a unified processing center, regardless of the applicant’s residence.

Most Marines applying for naturalization are required to complete three forms. All of these forms, as well as additional information, are available at www.uscis.gov.

The first is the N-400 Application for Naturalization. The second form is the N-426 Certification of Military or Naval Service. Finally, the applicant must complete the G325B

Biographical Information. The Marine cannot, however, complete the N-426 without a certification from the organization holding the Marine’s service record book.

For Marines aboard MCRD, the Consolidated Personnel Administration Center can provide your service certification. Additionally, the Marine must submit a photocopy of his or her permanent resident card, two standard passport-style color photographs and the appropriate application fee. Fee information is available on the USCIS Web site. It is important to pay the fee listed on the Web site, and not on the forms, as the Web site contains the most current updates.

If you have any questions about the immigration process, or have questions regarding immigration procedures for family members or fiancés, please contact your command citizenship representative in the Legal Assistance Office. You can make an appointment by calling (619) 524-4111/4110.

CHEVRON
ESTABLISHED 1943

COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. PAXTON JR.

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. FRANK E. PULLEY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
MAJ. JOSEPH D. KLOPPPEL
joseph.klopppel@usmc.mil

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
MASTER SGT. JANICE M. HAGAR
janice.hagar@usmc.mil

PRESS OFFICER
1ST LT. ANTHONY DEL SIGNORE
anthony.delsignore@usmc.mil

PRESS CHIEF
STAFF SGT. SCOTT DUNN
scott.dunn@usmc.mil

WEBMASTER
DAVID HOFFMAN
david.hoffman@usmc.mil

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
CPL. JESS LEVENS
LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120
SAN DIEGO, CA 92140
(619) 524-8727

The Chevron, printed with appropriated funds in compliance with Marine Corps Order P5600.31F, is published by Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego personnel. Opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense. The Chevron is promulgated for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All photos are official USMC property unless otherwise indicated.

National Prayer Breakfast

This year's depot National Prayer Breakfast is Feb. 15 at 6:30 a.m. at Duncan Hall. The cost for the breakfast is \$1.90, and patrons are encouraged to pay ahead due to long line expectancy. Tickets are available at the depot chaplain's office in Pendleton Hall or at the Headquarters and Service Battalion chaplain's office in Building 15. For more information, call H&S Bn. chaplain, Cmdr. Randal B. Craft at (619) 524-1347.

Women Marines Association celebrating 62nd Anniversary

The San Diego chapter of the Women Marines Association will hold its 62nd anniversary of women Marines Feb. 19 at the Hilton Hotel in Mission Valley at 901 Camino del Rio South, San Diego. Active duty Marines and their guest are invited to attend. The cost per ticket is \$19, which includes a meal. The deadline for reservations is Feb. 15. For more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Busby at (619) 524-1980.

Career and Education Fair

Marine Corps Community Services Career Resource Management Center is hosting a Career and Education Fair at the field house here Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring resumes and dress for success. No reservations are required. For more information, call (619) 524-1283 or (619) 524-8440.

All services enlisted ball

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA is hosting its 17th Annual All Services Enlisted Ball at Paradise Point Resort and Spa May 7. For more information, call the event coordinator Cindy Farless at (619) 232-9084 or visit www.asymcasd.org.

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program

One-day workshops for the PREP program fiscal 2005 are available every other month (Feb. 9, April 27, June 22, Aug. 24) Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Education Center, Building 111. PREP teaches couples how to communicate effectively and work as a team to preserve and enhance love, commitment and friendship, as well as solve problems and manage disagreements. Active duty members and their spouses or fiancés, as well as civilian depot employees, are invited to attend. Priority will be given to active duty members and their spouses or fiancés. Child care is available. Please sign up no later than one week before a workshop. For more information, call the Family Team Building office at (619) 524-0916 or (888) 718-3027.

Bible study opportunities

The Headquarters and Service Battalion Bible study, Hearers and Doers, is open to all H&S personnel, both active duty and civilian, including Recruiters School personnel and students. The group meets from 11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays in the H&S Bn. Headquarters classroom, Building 15. The group is currently reading and discussing the book, "The Purpose Driven Life," by Rick Warren. Come as you are. Please call the battalion chaplain for further details including information about acquiring Warren's book. Officers' Christian Fellowship is available to all depot officers Friday mornings



ONE TALL ORDER
Rappelling from a six-story tower, Instructional Training Company drill instructor Sgt. Jefferson Rivas demonstrates the safety of using a harness. This demo instills confidence in recruits before they make their own descent, a requirement for graduation. At the tower's base is fellow drill instructor Staff Sgt. Roger Taylor, who locks out the rope, preventing Rivas from falling any further. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

at 6:30 a.m. The group meets for about an hour in the Headquarters Company classroom in Building 6W. The meeting ends so that those involved in Friday Morning Colors are able to make it to the ceremony on time. The group study is currently focused on the book, "Your Work Matters to God," by Doug Sherman and William Hendricks.

Interested officers can join the study at any point in time whether or not they are familiar with or have been reading the subject book. Please give Lt. Col. Scott McLennan, executive officer, H&S Bn., a call at (619) 524-1980 for further details including information about acquiring the book.



Christian Service Charities
Christian charities you know and trust.
"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
-T. Roosevelt
888-728-2762
www.christianservicecharities.org
a CFC participant | Provided as a public service.

Sportsman's Club

The Sportsman's Club of Camp Pendleton, Calif., is now open to depot personnel, active duty, retirees, reservists and Department of Defense employees. The club promotes and enriches hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Officials hold club meetings the second Tuesday of every month at Building 25264 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton at 6:30 p.m. For more information, check out the club Web site at <http://thesportsmansclub.netfirms.com> or call Master Sgt. John Cullen at (760) 725-7537. E-mail him at cullenjr@pendleton.usmc.mil. If chosen, the artwork becomes Marine Corps Marathon property and the MCM reserves the right to publish the artwork.

Mexico border area liberty policy violation update

The San Diego Police Department routinely conducts Operation Safe Crossing with the help of various local law enforcement agencies. Operation Safe Crossing is designed to deter underage drinking in Tijuana, Mexico. All military personnel without their armed forces identification cards will be denied entry into Mexico. San Diego police will arrest any people, regardless of age, coming back from Tijuana who are too intoxicated to take care of themselves. Commander Navy Region Southwest Border Shore Patrol will maintain a visual presence and assist SDPD upon request in handling or taking custody of any military personnel.

Mexico liberty policies

Marine Corps Regional Order 1050 requires that all Marines E-3 and below have an out of bounds chit to go to Mexico. Regional order 1050 applies to all lance corporals and below assigned here. For more information, senior enlisted personnel and officers may contact Mac Celso Rubalcaba via e-mail at rubalcaba.celso@otc.cnrsw.navy.mil or (619) 428-2427/1318.

Submit possible Chevron briefs via e-mail to edward.guevara@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards and regulations of the U.S. Government.



All-Marine men's soccer team forward Sgt. Nygel N. Lewis drives down the field with Staff Sgt. Oscar O. Fuentes following behind him during practice Friday. Lewis and a few other players shared laughs and smiles in practice sessions. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron photos

All-Marines gel at depot before service showdown



All-Marine men's soccer team midfielder and assistant coach Maj. Bamidele J. Abogunrin discusses a play with head coach Staff Sgt. Mario R. Morales.

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
Chevron staff

The best male soccer players in the Corps gathered here this month to try out for the All-Marine Soccer team. Three depot Marines took on the challenge: 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District combat correspondent Sgt. Stephen L. Standifird, Western Recruiting Region training officer Capt. Steven J. Pacheco and Communication and Information Systems Department network technician Cpl. Eric J. Norfleet. Norfleet has played soccer for the last 18 years and is a two-time All-Marine veteran hoping his team will take the gold medal in his third year. "We have a good team," he said. "Working as a team will be the key to winning. If we go out and play as a team we will do well." Standifird was scheduled to be the goalkeeper until he fractured his wrist during practice. With their only goalie out, the team had to make some calls in hopes of tracking down another goalie. There was one other goalie that had already been approved for play but could not be relieved from his regular duties in the Corps. With some persistence, team organizers were able to sign on and complete the roster with the addition of Cpl. Edmundo G. Calderon from Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif. Of the 23 Marines who tried out, 18 were chosen to represent the Corps along with its two coaches in competition against the Navy, Army and Air Force at the Armed-Forces Soccer Tournament, which kicked off Tuesday. The tourney is being held on artificial turf at the nearby Naval Station San Diego soccer field. According to assistant coach and stand-in player Maj. Bamidele J. Abogunrin, the depot's soggy



All-Marine midfielder Cpl. Eric J. Norfleet kicks the ball down field toward forward Cpl. Alioune Diop. The only player representing the depot, Norfleet is making his third appearance with the All-Marine men's soccer team.



The All-Marine men's soccer team pairs up and stretches in unison before practicing.



All-Marine men's soccer head coach Staff Sgt. Mario R. Morales debriefs the team after their final practice here before going to the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Soccer Championship.

Hall Field forced the Marines to seek another facility after one practice, a search that proved fruitful. "We called around and found out that Grossmont College had an Astro turf field," he said. "They allowed us to use it for three weeks for free. They normally charge \$150 per hour." Nearby Grossmont High School also donated playing time on its field to help out the Marines. Both fields were used for practices and scrimmage games against some of the best teams San Diego's local leagues have to offer. The newly formed team brought its final practice to a close Friday at Hall Field, only the second time they had used it. Tomorrow the Marines face the Army at 12:30 p.m.; Sunday they play the Navy at 6:30 p.m.; and Monday they close out the tourney against the Air Force at 11 a.m. Closing ceremonies will begin at 3 p.m. The all-stars from this tournament will go on to be a part of an all-forces team in higher-level competition.

Early weekend ski trip has first-timers braving sunny, icy slopes

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

After a shortened workweek, 14 Marines from the Single Marine Program here began another hooky session early Friday to enjoy skiing and snowboarding in the mountains of Big Bear Lake, Calif.

Packed and ready, the Marines and program coordinator Britney O'Connor left the depot in two vans headed 140 miles northeast.

Saturday morning the group hit the slopes at 9:45 a.m. and found they were not the only Marines in the neighborhood. Forty Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and 20 others from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., were also taking in the early weekend. The toasty weather amid the snowcapped mountains made it hard for skiers and snowboarders to keep their jackets on, but the snow was packed and icy, and the Marines opted to keep their jackets on for padding.

For many Marines, snowboarding was a first-time thing, and those who had been snowboarding before knew that the first day is the longest. Falling and falling hard became routine for many first-timers, including the depot's Cpl. Hamlet Tavarez.

"I fall gracefully," said Tavarez, an armorer, after picking himself up. Fall or not, the trip proved to be something worthwhile.

"It was an amazing trip," said Tavarez. "The Marines that were supposed to go out and didn't definitely missed out."

The snow was not the only thing that kept Marines busy. After they had their fill of ice and snow, Marines found a bowling alley and a lively nightspot.

"At the time, snowboarding was really fun, but now that I'm back, I'm just really sore," said Lance Cpl. Roger L. Talbot, Headquarters Company.

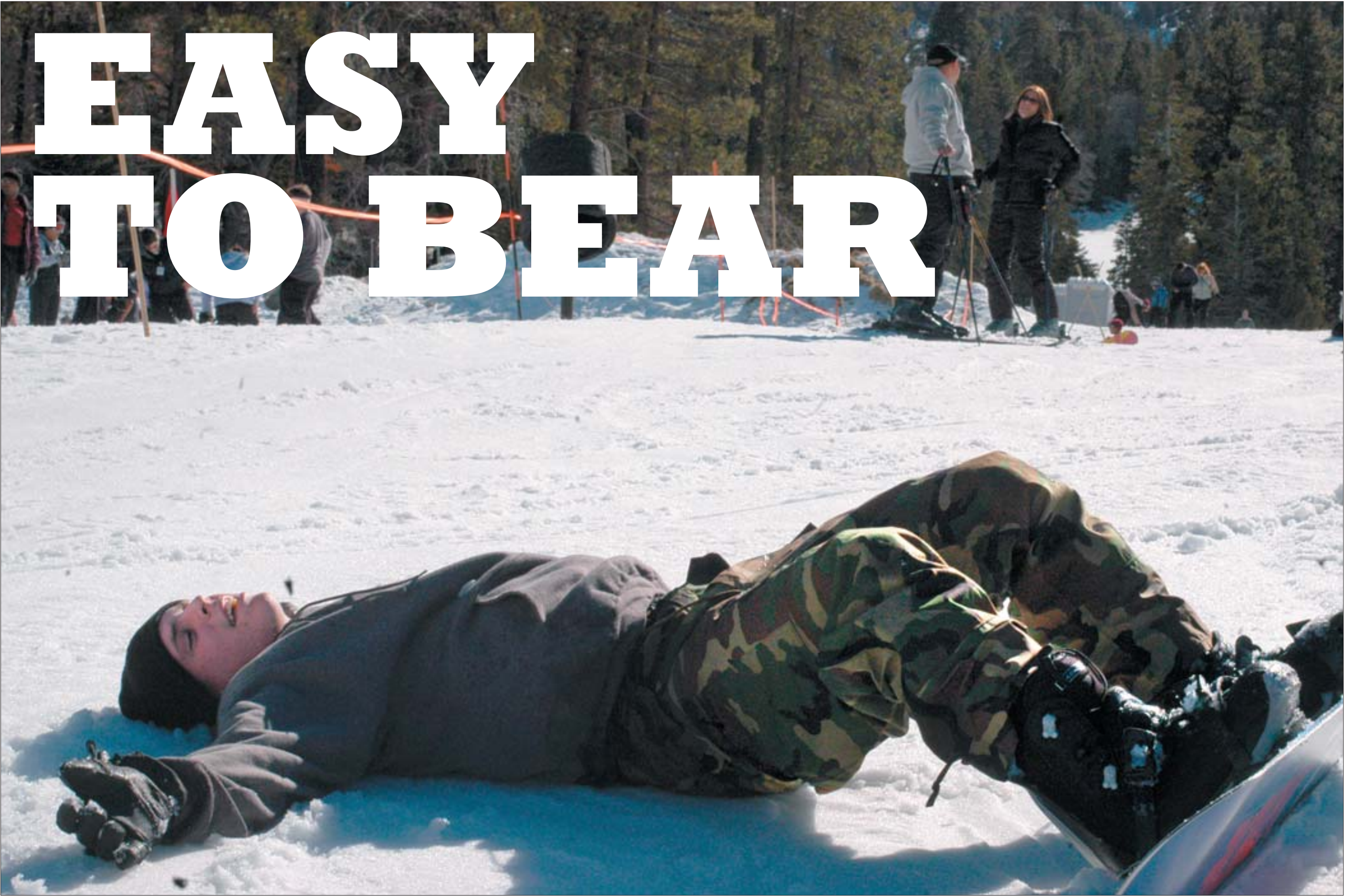
Some younger Marines said this trip would have been impossible for them because of prices, but O'Connor managed to get lift tickets, transportation, and lodging for \$80, with a huge discount and extended time on rental equipment. Marines with their own equipment paid \$65.

"Prices were good compared to what we paid and the amount of time we spent up there," said Talbot. "It was well worth it."

A second ski trip is scheduled for the end of February at Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort, Mammoth Lakes, Calif. The next SMP meeting is scheduled for Wednesday in the depot library at 10 a.m.



(From left) Sgt. William Colon, Cpl. Hamlet Tavarez, Lance Cpl. Ewell Thompson and Cpl. David Kusinitz dig in at a nearby restaurant before hitting the slopes on snowboards Saturday.



After finishing his first run, Cpl. David Kusinitz decided to take a minute and enjoy the scenery before hopping back on the lift. *Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos*



New to snowboarding, Sgt. David Walter discovered he wasn't quite ready for jumps, stopping or landing.



With everybody else taking their time getting settled, Cpl. Kusinitz, foreground, Lance Cpl. Dallas Duncatell and Sgt. David Walter ride to the top.



After attempting a more challenging course recommended for experienced skiers, Cpl. David Kusinitz was just fortunate to make it down without injury.

‘He never let anything affect his training. I never had a doubt that he would succeed here.’ — **Staff Sgt. Enmanuel Tejada**, *Platoon 1035 senior drill instructor*



Pfc. Tosh Myles, squad leader, Platoon 1035, Company D, salutes with his rifle during a recent drill practice. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

Unbreakable

From a battered childhood rose an unyielding Marine

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron Staff

The last thing Tosh’s mother left him was a broken arm and legal separation papers. At age 12, he joined the foster care system. But since he spoke out about his abuse, things got worse. He spent the next six years in and out of group homes and foster homes.

When Platoon 1035 squad leader Pfc. Tosh Myles was a young boy, visiting his father was a rare luxury, but around age 6, those visits came to an end. The Newcaney, Texas, native grew up in a house with three older sisters, one younger sister and two baby brothers. It wasn’t until he was nine years old that Myles left Texas and moved to San Diego, Calif. His mother was the only parental figure that Myles knew during his early childhood.

Myles’ oldest sister is currently 24 years old, but as a teenager, she escaped her mother’s beatings.

“My sister ran away when she was 13,” said Myles. “When she left, I started getting (beatings),” said Myles. “When I was little, sometimes I had to miss school because I couldn’t walk.”

Myles was hesitant to share his problem with the world.

“I didn’t tell anybody because I didn’t want to be away from my family,” said Myles. “I knew if they took me away, I would be cut off from all my brothers and sisters, and relatives.”

During Myles’ seventh-grade year, his mother hit him so hard with a mallet that it broke a bone in his right arm. Three days passed before he visited a hospi-

tal and doctors confirmed the fracture.

“Some of my friends and I went to a child outreach-type group that was set up to discourage gang activity, and one of my friends told me that I should say something to the counselor, so I did,” said Myles.

Not long after the counselor found out, Myles was removed from his home and put into a group home.

Myles’ first experience in the foster care system wasn’t a great one. He would work long days on the weekend and watch as his other foster brothers took turns running away.

Myles found ways to stay out of trouble by getting involved in sports. His talent on the football field took him to the North San Diego County All-Star team.

“My friend’s foster dad, Kenneth Smokoska, would come get me on the weekends because he knew what I would be doing if he didn’t come get me,” said Myles.

“Ken took care of Tosh when he had to just get out of the house,” said Pfc. Isaiah A. Porter, a close friend of Myles from high school and a recent graduate from Company I.

It wasn’t until his senior year that Myles was finished moving. He found his last home with Smokoska, who wasn’t anything like the other foster parents, said Myles. He had simple rules to follow, and he didn’t keep a leash on him. As long as Myles followed the rules, Smokoska made his house a pleasant place to stay.

After graduation, Myles had nothing but a job and a foster home. When he turned 18, Smokoska allowed him to stay, as long as he paid a small rent.

Porter spoke to him about the Marine Corps fre-

quently after high school.

According to Myles, he saw the Marine Corps as an opportunity to start a new life and have an opportunity for school and football.

At 18, Myles enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves. The life that Myles lived before boot camp seemed to prepare him more than handicap him.

“Going into boot camp, I wasn’t fazed by the yelling or (incentive training),” said Myles.

Myles’ drill instructors realized this and it wasn’t long before he was given a leadership position.

“He never let anything affect his training,” said Staff Sgt. Enmanuel Tejada, a senior drill instructor from Company D. “I never had a doubt that he would succeed here.”

Myles’ leadership actions stayed with the recruits even after he was relieved from the position.

“Even when he wasn’t a squad leader, he would take charge and make sure the tasks got done,” said Tejada.

A week later, the platoon again needed a squad leader and their senior drill instructor allowed them to vote.

Tejada said Myles definitely had an influence on the recruits. “Myles is one of the few recruits I have that I can trust to get things done. When he goes into the fleet, whatever shop he goes to will be lucky to have him.”

After spending six years searching for some direction, Myles has found a spot in the Marine Corps. A past that would have hindered most helped Myles to succeed in his biggest challenge yet.

‘Pooleeing’ their weight

Marine recruiting’s pool programs hold assets waiting to be tapped

BY SGT. JASON GALLENTINE
9th Marine Corps Recruiting District

Deciding to join the Marine Corps may be a large step for many young men and women that will change their lives forever.

Taking this step requires a great deal of determination that will ultimately drive them through the transformation from an ordinary citizen to one of “the few, the proud.”

This transformation process begins in the pool program where recruiters instruct and lead these individuals to prepare them for a life in the Corps.

This relationship is reciprocal. The pooltees also provide the recruiters with a way to reach more young Americans and help with the recruiting effort.

“(Pooltees) are walking, talking mouthpieces of the Marine Corps and a direct reflection of the recruiter in the community,” said Sgt. Mario D. Lute, recruiter, Recruiting Substation North Indianapolis. “They are a proof source and a good extension of us.”

According to Lute, pooltees contribute to recruiting by providing referrals, arranging and setting up high school visits, representing the Marine Corps at high schools

by explaining to students their decision to enlist, and informing recruiters who in their school is qualified to enlist.

“(Their efforts) allow us to go home early to our families, take vacations and go out to dinner,” Lute said. “You’ll have appointments if you have a successful pool program, and you’ll love being a recruiter.”

According to Tom Brinkman, who has been in the RSS North Indianapolis pool since March 1, he helps his recruiters by talking to people in his high school’s area and arranging for classroom visits.

Pooltees like Brinkman volunteer their time after school, often forfeiting part time jobs, to help their recruiters with these events for different reasons.

“I always like being around Marines,” Brinkman said. “It helps me stay prepared and motivated.”

Brinkman also said once he got in the pool he realized the misconceptions people had about Marine recruiters, and he wants to show others how good they really are.

Andrew Miller entered the RSS North Indianapolis pool in October and has already helped his recruiter with lunchroom set-ups at his school.

“I want to get as many people involved as I can,”

Miller said. “I want everyone to see more than just what the media is showing. Marines are good guys and have a good mind set.”

Miller said he participates in the pool functions because he is building himself up to be prepared for the Marine Corps and what he can become.

Lute said it is important to have key men like Brinkman and Miller in the high schools, because they are leaders that don’t have to be constantly supervised. They provide positive influence that others will follow.

Lute also said that the pooltees volunteer to help because they already feel they’re part of the Marine Corps family, and they want people to know they made a commitment.

“This is not something they were told to do,” Lute said. “This is something they chose to do.”

The pooltees’ motivation and dedication toward the recruiters’ goals in Indianapolis show qualities that the recruiters search for, and Lute is impressed.

“With them having school, homework and jobs, they go above and beyond,” Lute said. “They are already like Marines. It’s almost like having a young Marine working with us, and it takes a great load off of our shoulders.”

Country musician Marine plans to get married in full cowboy regalia

Country, from pg. 1

“All the cousins started singing along, and before we knew it, he had the whole family singing. It was a really nice way to bring everyone together.”

Blowers said he has written more songs than he can keep up with, but he has several distinct favorites. His top choice is called “Kissing You Goodbye,” a love song.

“‘Kissing you goodbye’ is definitely my favorite song I’ve written,” said Blowers. “I love it so much because sometimes you can sit down with your guitar and try to come up with words. Eventually, a song will come. But with this song, I just sat down and it came to me. There wasn’t much work involved.”

Blowers said he plans to record a four-song demo in the near future with production assistance from some Marine Band San Diego colleagues.

“I wanted to record this month,” said Blowers. “But I’m in the middle of planning my wedding. It’s a lot more work than I thought.”

His fiancée, Yanina Mickelsen, met him through a mutual friend, and they shared similar interests.

“She’s a country girl, tried and true,” said Blowers. “She’s a rodeo barrel racer, and a fan of my music. It was Karaoke night at a country bar, and I sang ‘Cross My Heart,’ by George Strait. They put the spotlight on her, and I eventually walked down to her and sang face-to-face. Let’s just say she really liked it. ‘Cross My Heart’ is going to be our wedding song now.”

Blowers said he’ll get married wearing boots, Wrangler jeans and belt buckle, a black felt cowboy hat and a tuxedo jacket.

Apart from the romantics, Blowers takes Karaoke pretty seriously. Most places won’t let Blowers bring his guitar, excluding the Locker Room Sports Bar here.

“I love competing in Karaoke contests,” said Blowers. “I’d like to bring my guitar and sing original songs, but if I did that, everyone would want to bring their guitars. Then it wouldn’t really be Karaoke. I usually sing a Kenny Chesney or George Strait song.”



Blowers, 22, has been practicing music since he was a young teenager. Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron photos

‘It was Karaoke night at a country bar . . . They put the spotlight on her, and I eventually walked down to her and sang face-to-face. Let’s just say she really liked it.’

— **Cpl. Robbie Blowers**, *on impressing his fiancée*

Blowers has won a few singing competitions, but he said he lost the most memorable contest.

“I made it to the finals at In Cahoots,” said Blowers. “The guy that beat me deserved his first-place win. In Cahoots is a country bar, and this guy dressed like a transvestite vampire, and sang a song from ‘Rocky Horror Picture Show.’ It was hilarious.”

In Karaoke and when he’s playing at home, Blowers likes to sing songs by his favorite country icons.

“Kenny and George are both big influences in my music,” said Blowers. “Gary Allen and Alan Jackson are also

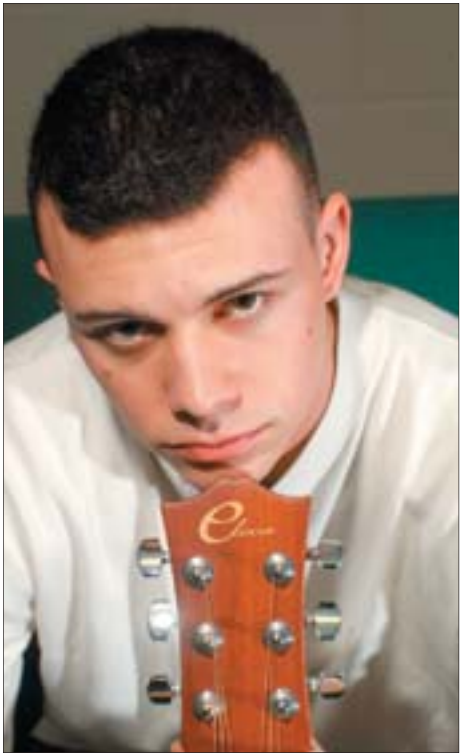
big influences.”

Like a multitude of country stars, Blowers has developed a rich, twangy voice that is generally restricted to the genre.

“Robbie has been singing for a long time,” said Patty. “He started singing in school plays and in choruses. He’s got a lot of talent.”

Blowers said he will have more time to focus on his craft after his enlistment is over, and he hopes to make it far with his music.

“He’s good enough and I think he has the right attitude,” said Patty. “I hope I hear him on the radio someday.”





Instructional Training Company drill instructor Sgt. Lance Garcia teaches Co. D recruits techniques and procedures before they rappel a six-story tower. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

DELTA COMPANY



COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. R. G. Kightlinger
Jackson, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. A. W. Smit



SERIES HONORMAN
Pfc. M. A. Moreno
San Martin, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. T. A. Meinhardt



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. C. J. Bergfalk
Sumner, Wash.
Recruited by
Sgt. K. J. Ellis



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. L. Saunders
Cedar Springs, Mich.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. L. Rumpfelt



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. M. A. Wetts
Hobart, Ind.
Recruited by
Sgt. N. R. Kendrick



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. K. L. Wollam
Eastland, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. G. A. Gotcher



HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. W. P. Kessler
Austin, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. B. Hays II



HIGH SHOOTER (237)
Pfc. M. E. Ortega
Grand Rapids, Mich.
Marksmanship instructor
Sgt. J. J. Henio

FIRST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. B. S. Blankenship
Chaplain
Lt. Cmdr. M. G. Mueller
Sergeant Major
1st Sgt. A. A. Spadaro

COMPANY D
Commanding Officer
Capt. H. S. Marshal
First Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. A. Rodriguez

SERIES 1034
Capt. W. Doctor Jr.
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. J. H. Vilca

SERIES 1037
Capt. P. S. Henry
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. A. J. Nichols

PLATOON 1033
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. Olives
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. A. Sehi
Staff Sgt. J. D. Vest
Sgt. J. D. Yazie

Pvt. R. R. Adams
Pvt. C. A. Anthem
Pvt. A. I. Araiza
Pvt. A. K. Archer
Pfc. D. Barajasrivera
Pvt. K. R. Benally
*Pfc. A. S. Birkeneder
Pvt. W. C. Bonner
Pvt. D. M. Brandon
Pvt. D. J. Bratcher
*Pfc. A. R. Caraway
Pvt. J. A. Chapplear
Pvt. R. L. Clark
*Pfc. A. J. Crosbycarlsen
Pvt. A. R. Cunningham Jr.
Pvt. G. Delacruz
Pvt. D. J. Dike
Pfc. N. A. Diorio
Pfc. C. L. Dodd
Pvt. A. Estradacorrillo

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT & WESTERN RECRUITING REGION
Commanding General
BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR.
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT
Commanding Officer
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD
Regimental Drill Master
GUNNERY SGT. E. P. ACKLEY
Narrator
STAFF SGT. R. E. JIMENEZ

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
Band Officer
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES
Band Master
MASTER SGT. D. W. PRICE

COLOR GUARD
SGT. J. L. MARQUEZ
SGT. C. B. BULL
PVT. A. R. KING
PFC. M. A. REZENDES



Pfc. Michael J. Seifert and the rest of Platoon 1035, executes the dress-right-dress drill command given by senior drill instructor Staff Sgt. Emmanuel Tejada. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

Pfc. J. B. Florez
Pfc. A. A. Galvez
Pfc. E. J. Garza
Pfc. D. R. Gilbertson
Pfc. N. A. Diorio
Pfc. C. L. Dodd
Pvt. A. Estradacorrillo

Pfc. R. E. Grainer
Pfc. J. D. Gutierrez
Pvt. I. Herreramora
Pvt. R. A. Heuermann
Pvt. A. J. Jones III
Pfc. C. M. Kastan
Pvt. C. C. Keeling

Pfc. J. L. Kiener
*Lance Cpl. R. G. Kightlinger
Pvt. J. T. King II
Pfc. L. F. Kokes
Pfc. S. M. Kruse
Pvt. T. M. Kureit
Pvt. G. A. Lebaron

Pvt. S. S. Levings
Pvt. M. J. Lijewski
Pvt. C. R. Lockman
Pvt. J. Lopez
Pfc. J. T. Lopezpomaranski
Pvt. A. T. Madrigal
Pvt. C. D. Nette

PLATOON 1034
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. B. J. Chavez
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. M. C. Cantu
Staff Sgt. J. W. Frantz
Staff Sgt. S. A. Leonardson

Pfc. R. L. Adams
Pvt. L. A. Arenas
Pvt. J. P. Arivett
*Pfc. C. J. Auderer
*Pfc. C. J. Bergfalk
Pvt. R. L. Brown
Pvt. D. J. Buckley
Pfc. J. P. Burchell
Pvt. D. L. Burgess
Pvt. S. A. Busler
Pvt. K. J. Cartheuser
Pfc. W. J. Charles
Pfc. J. S. Clark
Pvt. J. W. Cornelius
Pfc. G. Corral
Pvt. J. Davila
*Pfc. A. M. Edwards
*Pfc. C. T. Freitag
Pfc. R. D. Garza
Pvt. O. R. Gonzalez-Gonzales
Pfc. D. B. Harris
Pfc. T. R. Hearnton
Pvt. A. A. Hernandez
Pvt. B. J. Hillier
Pvt. S. M. Hooper
Pvt. J. D. Hoskins
Pfc. B. R. Humphrey
Pvt. J. M. Jensen
Pvt. C. R. Johnson
Pfc. J. R. Kallash
Pfc. W. P. Kessler
Pvt. B. M. Kline
Pvt. C. A. Lair
Pfc. T. D. Lewis
Pvt. J. E. Longwell
Pvt. C. P. Lyday
Pfc. G. Martinez
Pvt. G. L. Martinez
Pvt. T. W. Mason
Pvt. R. L. Mathers
Pvt. B. J. Morse
Pfc. J. W. Murphy
Pfc. A. Obregon
Pfc. E. Olmos
Pvt. C. J. Reed
Pvt. M. R. Shelton

Pvt. J. A. Sullivan
Pvt. G. G. Vargas

PLATOON 1035
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. E. Tejada
Drill Instructors
Sgt. H. Sotomayor
Sgt. M. E. Ortega
Sgt. S. A. Leek

Pvt. G. M. Ainsworth
Pvt. J. D. Anderson
Pfc. T. L. Anderson
Pvt. M. T. Andrews
Pvt. D. J. Bell
Pvt. V. E. Benites
Pvt. C. L. Bezada
Pvt. E. C. Briski
Pvt. J. B. Burton
*Pfc. B. C. Bury
Pvt. V. P. Clarkson
Pvt. J. A. Dejonge
Pvt. I. M. Dilly
Pvt. J. M. Duck
Pvt. B. A. Erwin
Pvt. K. S. Fast
Pvt. R. A. Fehlhaber
Pvt. M. A. Girsks
Pvt. K. B. Gleich
Pvt. R. L. Glenn
Pvt. L. R. Guthrie
Pvt. J. R. Harrison
Pvt. J. N. Hoover
Pvt. R. F. Jackson
Pvt. D. A. Johnson
Pfc. G. A. Justiniani
Pvt. A. C. Knight
Pvt. T. M. La
Pvt. W. J. Lawson
Pvt. D. J. Lepert
Pfc. M. A. Lesh
Pvt. G. Munoz
Pvt. A. E. Mydler
Pvt. A. J. Samens
Pvt. M. J. Schauf
Pvt. A. C. Strickland
Pvt. J. L. Thompson

PLATOON 1038
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. H. I. Little
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. M. M. McLaughlin

Retired 1st Sgt. Glen L. Kanig

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Retired 1st Sgt. Glen L. Kanig was born in Oakland, Calif., Nov. 14, 1923.

Kanig enlisted in the Marine Corps reserves and was ordered to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Dec. 9, 1942.

Upon completion of boot camp, Kanig was ordered to parachute training at Camp Gillespie, El Cajon, Calif. Completing parachute training, Kanig was transferred to Company B, 4th Parachute Battalion, Camp Elliott, Calif., where he became squad leader of a 60mm mortar squad.

Kanig was promoted to corporal and assigned to Co. D, 2nd Bn., 26th Marine Regiment. In Feb. 19, 1945, he landed on Iwo Jima, Red Beach 2. He provided support fire and evacuated wounded. Kanig also became mortar section leader and then rifle platoon leader.

While directing fire, Kanig was wounded March 10, 1945. He was evacuated to a field hospital where he recovered and was released March 15.

After completing the operation, he returned to Camp Tarawa, Hawaii.

Kanig was discharged Jan. 6, 1946, at Mare Island, Calif., and returned to his hometown of Markleeville, Calif., where he worked in mining and timber hauling.

Kanig enlisted in the inactive reserve June 1947 and was called to active duty Aug. 15, 1950. He reported to Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he was assigned to 1st Infantry Training Regiment as a mortar and crew-served weapons instructor.



He was promoted to sergeant in April 1951 and to staff sergeant in March 1952. He received orders to Korea in June 1952.

He served with Mortar Company, 5th Marines, as forward observer and platoon sergeant.

Kanig received orders to attend Drill Instructor School at MCRD San Diego in February 1954. After completing school, he was assigned to Marine Liaison and Training Group and later to Co. B 1st Recruit Training Bn.

In June 1955, Kanig was transferred to Drill Instructors School, this time as the drillmaster. Kanig was promoted to tech-



nical sergeant in November 1955.

In June 1957, he was transferred to the Naval ROTC at Duke University, Durham, N.C., where he was promoted to gunnery sergeant June 1, 1959. While at Duke, Kanig selected Midshipman Walter Boomer as a Marine option student. Boomer later became the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Kanig received orders to 1st Bn. 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division at Pendleton, where he served as platoon sergeant, 81mm Mortar Platoon. In 1961, 1st Bn., 5th Marines transferred to Okinawa as Stormy Saxton's 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines. Kanig then transferred back to Pendleton as the company gunnery sergeant of Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 1st Marines, which participated in the

Cuba Blockade in 1962.

Kanig again came to the depot in 1963 as the brig warden. He attended the Correctional Supervisors Course at U.S. Naval Station, Washington, D.C.

He was promoted to first sergeant in June 1964 and assumed duty as first sergeant of Military Police Co. at MCRD San Diego. In August 1965, he transferred back to 1st Bn. as first sergeant for Co. B.

In December 1965, he went back to 26th Marines as Co. A first sergeant, 5th Anti-Tank Bn.

In January 1967, he transferred to his last duty assignment: noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Marine liaison section, U.S. Naval Hospital at Pendleton.

Upon review by a physical examination board, he was placed on disability and retired September 1967.

Kanig's decorations include the Purple Heart, the Commendation Medal, the Commendation Medal with Combat V, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Naval Unit Citation, seven Good Conduct Medals, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, the American Campaign Medal, the Victory Medal with Asia Clasp, the National Defense Service Medal, four Korean Service Medals, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

He married the former Thelma C. Sylvia Nov. 12, 1949. They have one son, Edward.

Kanig now resides in San Diego with his wife. He worked for John C. Read Construction Co. from 1967 to January 2004 serving as a construction defect investigator and consultant. He retired at 80 years old.



"Artist recruit" Pvt. Michael T. Andrews, Platoon 1035, draws on a campaign cover protector before painting it. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from Delta Company answered Chevron's random questions about their interests and boot camp experiences:

Q: How many Marines are in your family?



Pfc. Robert E. Grainer
Fallon, Nev.

A: My father is a former Marine and my cousin is currently in Iraq.

Q: What were the hardest habits to break?



Pvt. Austin J. Jones III
Markham, Ill.

A: Probably scratching and saying "thank you." For some unknown reason in recruit training, you can't say "thank you."

Q: What was the scariest recruit training moment?



Pfc. Nicholas A. DiOrio
Colorado Springs, Colo.

A: The day infiltration course. We had to crawl through foot-deep puddles; I thought I was going to freeze to death.

Q: What was the funniest recruit training moment?



Pvt. Alexander K. Archer
Placerville, Calif.

A: Christmas Eve. (A drill instructor) had the fire watches sing Christmas carols ... I don't know how I fell asleep.

Q: Did you ever sneak food?



Pfc. Elojio J. Garza
Salt Lake City

A: Thought about it many times but never did.



Big Blue survives brush with Dental

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
Chevron staff

Commanding General's Cup volleyball continued Tuesday with 3rd Battalion taking a close victory against a dark-horse Dental team 2-1.

"We did much better than before," said Dental's Petty Officer 3rd Class Keilin "Hops" Hopkins-Bey. "We gave them a run for their money."

Although 3rd Bn., also known as Big Blue, took the lead early, they couldn't keep it.

"We were getting too many side outs, not getting our serves in, and we were hitting the ball into the net too many times," said Big Blue's Gunnery Sgt. Chris T. Balcazar.

Dental inched by at the end, 27-26, giving them the lead and shaking Big Blue. Normal scoring ends a game at 25 but the team must win by 2 points or else scoring is capped at 27.

"The first game affected us some," Balcazar said of Dental's win. "They weren't making the mental errors we were making. They were passing the ball and talking on the side."

According to Balcazar, their main problem in the beginning was only having one of their two setters.

"We were down our main setter, Capt. (Jackson T.) Doan," said Balcazar, the team's second setter.

Doan made it to the second game, helping Big Blue pull through 25-12.

In addition to Big Blue picking up their game, Dental started making mistakes they had avoided in the first game.

In the third and final game, a coin toss gave Big Blue the ball. This game was scored to 15 instead of the normal 25 and when the first team reached 8 points they switched sides on the court.

Big Blue took advantage of the ball and worked together to beat Dental 15-10 without losing the lead.

"We found our stride midway into the second game," said Balcazar. "We used that to keep our momentum going in the third game."

Big Blue came into this game doubting Dental as a viable opponent after seeing previous games and their performance last year, according to Balcazar. This match taught them a lesson.

"Don't take teams lightly," said Balcazar. "They may be a lot better than we expected."

Volleyball continues Tuesday. For more information, call intramural sports coordinator Rachel Dickinson at (619) 524-0548.



Dental's Petty Officer 3rd Class Keilin "Hops" Hopkins-Bey, right, spikes against Big Blue's Capt. Jackson T. Doan, left, and Sgt. Jeffery J. Vandentop, who failed to block the shot. *Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron photos*



Big Blue's 1st Sgt. Dathan C. Edwards and Sgt. Jeffery J. Vandentop jump up to hit the ball back at Dental. Dental's Lt. Cmdr. Robert B. Folk jumped up in an attempt to block the returning shot.

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE (FEB. 1)

10 a.m. MSST VS DENTAL
11 a.m. SERVICE CO. VS 3RD BATTALION
12 p.m. COAST GUARD VS 12TH DISTRICT
1 p.m. SERVICE CO. VS DENTAL

SERVICE CO.	FORFEIT
MSST	25 25
DENTAL	27 12 10
3RD BN.	26 25 15
MSST	23 19
3RD BN.	25 25
1ST BN.	10 07
COAST GUARD	25 25